City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle Special Council Meeting/Workshop at Town Hall 201 Delaware Street – New Castle Tuesday – July 13, 2010 – 6:15 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel Councilperson John Gaworski Councilperson Ted Megginson Councilperson Teel Petty

Councilperson John Cochran – Arrived Late

Also present: Mayor Jack Klingmeyer, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas

President Barthel said the purpose of the meeting was to hear presentations related to the City Engineer position.

Current City Engineer David Athey addressed Council first. He attended with Guy Marcozzi president of Duffield Associates. Mr. Marcozzi provided some background on the firm. It has 80 professionals in six offices. It has its headquarters in New Castle County.

Mr. Athey emphasized his background and knowledge of the City. He was appointed City Engineer in 2002. He described his experience on various projects and serving at various meetings in the City of New Castle. He pointed out Duffield Associates is locally owned and operated.

Mayor Klingmeyer asked what Mr. Athey's billing rate is and if he had recommendations for how the City can be more efficient and reduce costs in terms of working with the Board of Adjustment. He also asked about the firm representing private clients and what would happen if a conflict comes up.

Mr. Athey said his current personal rate is \$149 per hour. He said he believed the company would be willing to structure another more flexible plan, such as a lump sum for meetings.

Company officials said they did not think any conflict would occur and would avoid any issue so as to best represent the City.

Mayor Klingmeyer commended Mr. Athey's integrity and expressed pleasure in working with him in the past.

President Barthel asked about the availability of grants; Council has been told there are not any available.

Mr. Athey said there are no plentiful funds, and a lot of rocks have to be turned over to find funding. But, he added, they are out there.

Councilperson Petty concurred with Mayor Klingmeyer and said she has enjoyed working with Mr. Athey.

Tom deLorimer of URS Corp. said the office is located in Newark as of nine months ago. It is a global firm but the local office has been serving the area for 35 years.

City Planner Marian Hull highlighted the company's experience and breadth of knowledge, as well as its history with the City. As it has for years working with the City, the firm will rely on a broad range of experience.

Tony Sabarina, senior engineer, introduced himself. He would serve, if URS is selected, as City Engineer. He provided his background including graduating from University of Delaware and having worked at DelDOT. He has been at URS for eight years.

He detailed his capabilities and the services he and URS can provide.

President Barthel asked about grants and their availability.

Mr. Sabarina said the company has experts in that area to help.

Ms. Hull said there are some new federal sustainability grants.

Mayor Klingmeyer asked what the standard billing rate per hour is and whether he can suggest how the City use the City Engineer's time for efficiently.

Mr. Sabarina said his current billing rate \$160 an hour. Company officials said they would talk with the City about rates and billing. Their office, 90 percent of the work is municipal. The other 10 percent is DuPont.

President Barthel said he expects the Council to make a decision in August.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Mr. Gaworski seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. The Special Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.